

Dunstan News

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The Future of Clyde's Museums: people have their say

Most people who came to a public drop-in session at the launch of the community consultations on the future of the Clyde museums favoured a partial demolition of the Briar Herb museum and the building of a purpose-built museum.

Option five was the most popular identified by the number of marbles dropped in a bowl on that table by people at the launch at Clyde Memorial Hall late last month. The options are:

1. Leave them as they are. (Briar Herb is closed due to earthquake risk).
2. Do away with all of Clyde's museums (except the Railway Station Museum).
3. Upgrade and strengthen both Blyth St and the Briar Herb Museum to keep both open.
4. Develop the Blyth St museum as the main museum; demolish some buildings at Briar Herb and repair and strengthen others.
5. Demolish some buildings at Briar Herb and build a new museum on the site and close Blyth St.
6. Relocate the collections of both museums to an alternative site in central Clyde. This would mean a new building or buying/leasing an existing building.

The Chair of the Vincent Community Board, Sharleen Stirling-Lindsay, says there was a great turn out for the consultation.

"It created a lot of discussion and people seem to want to create a plan and move forward," she says. "The staff (CODC) have made a great job of presenting a complex situation. It's very engaging and encourages people to put forward their ideas."

The details of each option can be picked up at the Blyth St Museum and the Clyde Library. You can also go to the council's website: www.codc.org.govt.nz/clydemuseums to watch a video outlining all the options — it takes just 10 minutes. After that, go to www.research.net/r/clydemuseumoptions to cast a vote on what you think the future for Clyde's museums should be.

By the way — everyone who does the survey is entered into a draw for one of three great prizes donated by local business people. The plea is, please get involved and show you care for about Clyde heritage. **You have until Friday, November 23 to do so.**



Russell Garbutt discusses the options with Neville Bingham of Clyde.



Stacy and Tony Haig examine one of the museum options at the public consultation.



Peter Birks and Kathryn (Fletch) Fletcher of *Bike It Now* study the options presented on the 10 minutes video.

Talking It over ... with Russell Garbutt Vincent Community Board member.

Many things have been happening in and around our particular piece of paradise of late. I am hugely excited to be organising the inaugural fund-raising dinner for the hospice in Central Otago. My late wife and I were blown away by the depth and quality of the services that the Central Otago hospice staff offered us and I am pleased to say that, with the help of Pioneer Energy and Hospice Otago, a dinner will be held at Paulina's Restaurant next year on May 8. More information about the evening will come later, but I have already had some magnificent donations for a silent auction we'll be running. I'm keen to hear from anyone willing to donate smaller items. It is heartening to know so many locals want to help this amazing organisation.

I seem to be fully involved with museums and heritage of late. I was recently appointed to the chair of Central Stories as well as to the board of the Central Otago Heritage Trust. These positions marry nicely with my role as an appointee to the Clyde Museum Group who have, with some incredible work by Origin and others, come up with some really exciting options for the Clyde museums.

Christmas is looming and it is good to see that there will be some bottle collection facilities set up over the holiday break at a location soon to be announced. Not so good are the attempted vehicle thefts and graffiti appearing of late. All of us can be part of neighbourhood watch, so keep your eyes peeled. As always, if you want to talk over any issues, give me a call on 449 2254 or 020 4039 0424

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Tricky House Manoeuvre

It was a nail-biting time for the owners of the heritage Dunstan Times building in Clyde's main street when a vintage cottage was lifted into the narrow property.

Richard and Jo Flanagan worked on the restoration of the old newspaper building for several months converting it into a garage and a studio apartment. While this was underway, their new home was moved onto the property over winter.

The Dunstan Times newspaper started in 1864, although it did not occupy the current site until some time later. The building is more than 100 years old and has been beautifully restored by the Flannagans who saved it from certain destruction.



Steady as she goes ... the cottage is expertly manoeuvred up and over into The Dunstan Times property in Sutherland Street's historic precinct.

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Long Service Acknowledged by Clyde Hall Members



Meet Jim Hanning. He has served 40 years on the Clyde Hall Committee and has no plans to call it quits. Jim is one of our unsung heroes who would prefer it remain that way, but we think otherwise.

"The hall is a war memorial and there is a strong association for me in that my father served overseas," Jim says. "It was the centre of the community and basically we have to support the community."

Jim's association with the hall came through his membership of the Small Bore Rifle Association and then as a member of the hall committee.

"We've all got to do something for the community," he says.



Tree Planting Project by Rotary

The Alexandra Rotary Club has responded to an international Rotary challenge to help combat climate change by planting a tree for every club member.

Members recently planted 25 trees in Clyde — 17 in Seaton Square and eight at the Railway Station reserve with the assistance of the Central Otago District Council and Asplundh. A further 26 were planted in Alexandra and Roxburgh.

The trees planted in Clyde include flowering cherry (*Prunus Kanzan* and *Prunus Yedoensis*), cherry plum (*Prunus Cerasifera Thundercloud*), New Zealand lacebark (*Hoheria Augustifolia*) and Ginko Bilboa. They are more than 3m high and will be a major feature in the years to come. The total number of trees planted worldwide by Rotary members is 1.2 million.

New Kitchen In Earnsclough Hall

Salmon-pink walls, battered beige cupboards and shelving well past its use-by date has been transformed into a stylish modern kitchen at Earnsclough Hall.

The kitchen made its first public appearance while being used for the hall fair earlier this month and it certainly impressed people, judging by the complimentary comments.

New bench tops and units and a stainless steel mobile work table have been added. The inadequate overhead lighting has been replaced by LED lights. A new paint job completes the renovations. A donated range hood and a sun screen blind are yet to be installed.

The project was overseen by Earnsclough Community society president Angela McNaughton and assisted by committee member, Jane Robinson.

"It was long overdue," Angela says. "Earnsclough builder, Peter Hyslop did a great job and he also had to make repairs and fix a couple of leaks."

To keep costs down, existing fittings, where possible, were retained, such as the 4m long stainless steel bench with two sinks as well as most of the appliances.

Funds for the upgrade, which also includes new heating units for the hall, came from the Earnsclough Amenity Fund set up by L&M Mining as a condition of its resource consent for gold dredging on the Earnsclough Flats. The fund is held by the Central Otago District Council and this is the first time it has been drawn on.



Promote Dunstan president, Rory Butler was re-elected as president at the group's annual general meeting last month. The secretary is Louise Joyce and the treasurer is Carol Haig.



Earnsclough Community Society president Angela McNaughton in the new kitchen

Overseas Venture For Clyde Theatre Group

There is no holding back the enthusiasm of Clyde's Theatre Group. Its latest venture was a trip overseas to present two plays at the annual Norfolk Island Play Festival.

Thirteen members and supporters went to the Pacific island to perform *Chook Chook* and the group's award-winning production of *Carol and Nev*, featuring Barry Gibbons and Joy Ramsay.

The idea came from Theatre Group president, Joy Ramsay who went to the play festival in 2016.

"It was great for us as a group to perform two plays as well as having our friends and families along to support and encourage our teams," she says. "The adjudication process was an excellent learning tool for performers and directors and those of us who attended the workshop appreciated that opportunity as well."

The group spent weeks fundraising to pay for the trip.



The *Chook Chook* team (from left) Lucy Collins, Paula Angus, Catherine Brown and Kylee Murphy who performed at the Norfolk Island Play Festival.

Trust Appoints Nursery Manager

The Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust has appointed Dhana Pillai as its nursery manager for the Clyde Railhead Community Eco-Nursery.

Dhana has been a long-term volunteer at the eco-nursery and was closely involved in the formation of the trust. She has an expert knowledge of Central Otago native plants and plant propagation and is keen to promote the region's biodiversity.

Working bees have now moved to a summer timetable – every Thursday from 9am to noon at the railhead. Volunteers are always welcome to join the activities.

Bridge Club Building Sold

After several years waiting for it to be put on the market, an Auckland couple has finally achieved their dream. Joe Brownlee and his wife, Tanya Kwasza, were recently able to buy the building. They have exciting plans for its future, particularly for the stone cottage on Matau Street which the couple plan to restore.

Earnsclough Hall Fundraiser

A fair has raised nearly \$900 which is a welcome boost to the hall finances.

The hall is one of the few in Central Otago which is not council-owned although it makes an annual grant to help the upkeep of the 90-year-old building. The hall holds two country fairs each year to raise funds out the hall for functions and meetings. running and new members are always ring Angela on 4493 237

which is supplemented by hiring A small committee keeps the hall welcome. For more information

